Unrighteous Laws to be Resisted.

Fug: Slave Act. — }
Fug: Slave Bill. — }
I have none of that squeamishness (or whatever else it be) which prevents my calling it the Fugitive Slave Law; for a Law it is, to all intents & purposes, & none the less so, because a most infamous and tyrannous Law. Can there not be bad laws, as well as good ones?

Let us not seek to escape the full responsibility and consequences of our position. We hold that the Everlasting Laws which the Creator has established from the foundations of ye worlds, those which he has written & deep engraved on the fleshly tables of ~~the~~ unprejudiced & unsophisticated human hearts, those which, with more or less of distinctness, ~~he~~ has made known to all nations & to all men, leaving none without ~~a~~ some witness of Himself, — we hold that these are of paramount Laws of our being, to which first, and last, and middle, & without end, we owe the service & loyalty of our entire being. — Man's laws, the laws of human government are noble, ~~and~~ just, conducive

to human happiness and social advancement, ~~when~~ just so far as they conform to those higher, unalterable, & inexorable laws of God, — and only when they do conform. When they thus are in harmony with Heaven's law, they appeal to every thing that is good & noble in man, for respect & observance; and they never appeal in vain. ~~Then~~ They deserve respect, and they do not fail to secure it. Every instinct, every good prompting of man's nature, ~~calls for~~ cheerfully accords a measure of ~~of God's own~~ sacredness to such laws, and frowns upon the perverse and corrupt, who would disown them & set them at nought. God's own government is bound up with such laws, and they cannot fail, though the proud may scoff at them for a time, and the ~~low and~~ base & worldly-minded ~~may~~ think to trample them under foot. From every such low and grovelling attack, the Righteous Law, as well as the Righteous Man, will

only come forth brighter, and lovelier, to command new respect from reverent ~~hearts~~ hearts, and to attract new multitudes of willing worshippers —

But when human laws — the laws of human government, — are not of this character, when, instead of being in unison with the Divine Law, they are at variance with it; — when instead of "re-enacting" the high and glorious principles thereof, they wickedly & basely (no less than weakly & presumptuously) attempt to thwart — & ~~annu~~ annul them; when instead of inculcating respect, & rendering the honor due, to those High & Eternal Laws, they ~~cast~~ aim to cast ridicule upon them, ~~ridicule, and~~ make a mock of their divine origin, and hold them up to the derision of evil men; when they command us to do that which ~~Human~~ God, Christ, ~~Humanity~~, Justice, Honor, Humanity all cry out against, & forbid, and command us not to do the things which we know we ought to do, which every principle of justice & of right, and

Blasphemy to attribute bad law to God

every Command of the Holy Spirit of God, require us to do; — what ~~are~~ ask, is to be said of such laws what is to be done regarding them? Are they to be obeyed? Never Perish the thought. Never let them have one ~~moment's or minute~~ moment's regard or observance at our hands. Never let us hesitate an instant whether we will give, or withhold, our obedience. Never let it be in doubt, by all who see & know us, what our position in regard to such laws is. Let our constant, daily testimony, in word and in deed, be in opposition to them. Let all men take knowledge of us, that we hold ourselves above the ~~crime~~ sin and meanness of obeying such laws. Let us steadfastly disown them, dis-obey them, — embrace every opportunity which offers to act ~~in~~ for the good which they strive against, and use ~~every just~~ and honourable means to persuade all others to do the same. — For these are the laws which are enmity against God, — which are concerned not in reverent regard of the Supreme Lawgiver, but in ~~the~~ scorn & hatred of Him; — which aim not, in harmony with His laws, to promote the Wellbeing and Happiness of Mankind, but to subject the millions of the race to the damnable pride, lust, and ambition of the few.

MS. B.11.13, p.50